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INFO	OCT-00	ADS-00	AID-07	INR-10	EUR-12	SS-15	OIC-02
	AF-10	CIAE-00	EA-12	DODE-00	H-01	IO-15	NEA-07
	NSCE-00	ARA-16	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-06	L-03	CSCE-04
	DOE-10	TRSE-00	PA-02	OMB-01	INRE-00	SAL-01	OES-09
	ACDA-12	ICAE-00	SP-02	MCE-00	SPRS-02	/168 R	

DRAFTED BY PM/TMP:BLMURRAY/FCELEC
APPROVED BY PM:RBLACKWILL
S/S-O:RHSTERN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 12065 N/A
TAGS: PARM, UNGA
SUBJECT: CW USE: PRESS GUIDANCE
1. IN ADDITION TO FACT SHEETS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS PROVIDED PREVIOUSLY, FOLLOWING ARE QS AND AS FOR USE, AS APPROPRIATE, IN RESPONDING TO INITIAL QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT RECEIVE ABOUT ANNOUNCEMENT PERTAINING TO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE US OBTAINED FROM AN AREA OF A REPORTED CHEMICAL ATTACK IN KAMPUCHEA WHICH WAS ANALYZED AND FOUND TO REVEAL THE PRESENCE OF TOXINS.
2. TEXT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PROVIDED TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN.
Q: WHY IS THE US RELEASING THIS INFORMATION NOW, RATHER THAN WAITING FOR ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE?
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A: BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE DYING AND WE BELIEVE WE HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH IN UNCOVERING PHYSICAL EVIDENCE -- WHICH THE REST OF THE WORLD NEEDS TO KNOW -- IN IDENTIFYING ONE OF THE AGENTS WHICH COULD BE CAUSING THE BIZARRE EFFECTS AND DEATHS WHICH HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS OCCURRING FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW IN LAOS, KAMPUCHEA AND AFGHANISTAN.
Q: WHAT DOES THE UNITED STATES INTEND TO DO WITH THIS INFORMATION? WHY ISN'T THE US USING THE COMPLAINTS MECHANISM PROVIDED FOR IN THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION -- SPECIFICALLY, TAKING THE ISSUE TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL?
A: WE INTEND TO PURSUE THIS ISSUE THROUGH ALL APPROPRIATE CHANNELS TO SEEK A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. THIS PROBLEM IS AN INTERNATIONAL ONE AND THE SUBJECT OF DEEP CONCERN TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN GENERAL. AS YOU ARE AWARE, AS A RESULT OF RESOLUTION 35/144 C,

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY T. Glenn DATE 8/31/02
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

ADOPTED BY THE UN IN DECEMBER 1980, THIS ISSUE IS CURRENTLY THE SUBJECT OF AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION, UNDER UN AUSPICES, WHICH HAS BEEN MANDATED TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS AND REPORT TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY LATER THIS YEAR. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT RESOLUTION, THE US HAS BEEN AND IS CONTINUING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE UN.
Q. HAS THE US CHARGED THE SOVIETS WITH VIOLATING THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION OR THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL?
A. NO.
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Q: DO YOU INTEND TO?
A: WE INTEND TO FOLLOW UP ON OUR CURRENT FINDINGS. IN THE PAST WE HAVE FORMALLY EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN TO THE SOVIET UNION, VIETNAM AND LAOS ONLY TO BE TOLD THAT OUR CONCERNS WERE UNFOUNDED. BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS NOT SOLELY A US PROBLEM. OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD SHARE OUR CONCERN AND CONSIDER THIS AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE. THE UN RESOLUTION OF LAST DECEMBER CALLING FOR AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION OF REPORTS OF CW USE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THAT INTERNATIONAL CONCERN. FOR OUR PART WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS ISSUE WITH THE SOVIETS, AND THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO SEEK A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION.
Q. HAS THE US PRODUCED THESE TOXINS? WHAT IS US POLICY ON TOXINS?
A. CONSISTENT WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, THE US DOES NOT PRODUCE TOXINS FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES. WE ARE PARTIES TO BOTH THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL AND THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION. WE HAVE OPENED OUR FORMER BW FACILITIES TO INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION, AND HAVE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO PROHIBIT THE PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING, USE, OR TRANSFER OF SUCH AGENTS.
Q: DO YOU BELIEVE THE YELLOW POWDER HAS BEEN USED IN AFGHANISTAN?
A: WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS ABOUT DEATHS OCCURRING FROM YELLOW POWDER ATTACKS IN AFGHANISTAN, AND ARE CONTINUING TO ANALYZE INFORMATION AVAILABLE PERTAINING TO THE REPORTS.
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Q: WHAT EFFECT WILL THIS NEW INFORMATION HAVE FOR US ARMS CONTROL POLICY?
A: THIS NEW EVIDENCE WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON HOW WE APPROACH THE VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS.

Q: HOW IS THIS NEW INFORMATION RELATED TO THE SVERDLOVSK INCIDENT?

A: OBVIOUSLY THESE ARE RELATED ISSUES WHICH RAISE MOST SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS. AS YOU KNOW WE HAVE RAISED THE SVERDLOVSK INCIDENT WITH THE SOVIETS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WITHOUT SATISFACTORY REPONSE. WE WILL BE CONSIDERING WHAT STEPS TO TAKE NEXT IN LIGHT OF THAT RESPONSE AND OF THIS NEW INFORMATION.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: ALL POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO REPORT ON FOREIGN PRESS REACTION TO US ANNOUNCEMENT ON USE OF TOXINS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

4. MINIMIZE TO KABUL CONSIDERED. HAIG